



**COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FIFTEENTH-YEAR REVIEW
AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING
PLATFORM OF ACTION (BPFA+ 15)**

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INTRODUCTION

Country Questionnaire for the Fifteenth-Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) +15

The adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995 ushered in a new era in terms of addressing women's empowerment and advancement. The inception of this Platform carried with it, a call for Governments to accelerate their efforts towards addressing gender inequality. In 2004, and in line with the BPFA, African member States reiterated their commitment to the provisions of the Platform and to gender equality in general. African member States committed themselves to addressing challenges as identified in the *Synthesis of the national progress reports on the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action* (2004). The current review will therefore cover the extent to which countries have scaled up efforts, post the 7th African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+ 10).

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has mandated the UN Regional Commissions, including the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to follow-up the implementation of the BPFA. At the recent meeting of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD), the process for the African review of the implementation of the Platform was presented to member States. This process was adopted with amendments during the CWD session in August 2008.

The process for the African review will be carried out by a number of stakeholders including the AU and UN Agencies. To ensure that a comprehensive review is undertaken, this questionnaire seeks to solicit information on the status of implementation of policies, programmes and legislation in the area of women's empowerment and advancement in your country. It will be appreciated if this questionnaire could be filled in a collaborative way and in consultation with all stakeholders involved in the implementation of activities related to the empowerment and advancement of women in your country. The national gender machinery is expected to coordinate the completion of this questionnaire and also provide documents supporting information provided.

The completed questionnaires will be analysed and summarized by ECA and the results will be published in the *synthesis report* of the regional report on Beijing+ 15. The report will form part of Africa's contribution to the global review and appraisal of the Beijing +15.

The ECA Executive Secretary would therefore appreciate it if you could submit the completed questionnaire to ECA through the REC and ECA Sub-Regional Office in your region, for onward transmission to:

**The OIC
African Centre for Gender and Social Development
Economic Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: 251 11 551 2785/ 4416**

Soft copies in MS Word format should also be emailed to the following address:

eleteane@uneca.org

The deadline for the submission of the report is **31 March 2009**

Thank you in advance for your keen collaboration.

ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	African Union
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CWD	Committee on Women and Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR	Human Rights
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development (<i>held in Cairo Egypt in 1994</i>)
ICTs	Information Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGP	National Gender Policy
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VAW	Violence Against Women

PART 1: Enabling Environment

Preamble: In this section, countries assess the degree to which there is an enabling environment at country level for supporting effective implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. This appraisal focuses on the following aspects of the creation of such an enabling environment for the implementation of the BPFA:

- a) Institutional Arrangements
- b) Commitment to CEDAW
- c) Commitment to continental level gender equality protocols
- d) Commitment to sub-regional level gender equality protocols
- e) Adoption of a national gender policy
- f) Emerging issues for Africa
- g) Integration of gender equality principles into national development strategies (NDS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)

a) Institutional Arrangements for Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

- 1.1** Have any institutional arrangements been put in place for promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women in line with the strategic objectives for the BPFA, and recommendation from reviews of the BPFA. Yes No

If yes, please list the various institutional arrangements and mechanisms:

Institutional Arrangement	Year of Establishment	Function(s)
<i>Ministry of Women and Child Development</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>Is the national gender machinery</i>

- 1.2** What are the major constraints that prevent the National Gender Machineries from being effective?)

The major problems have been inadequate funding to effectively carry out programmes and activities; high staff turnover in all sectors; and delays in enacting relevant legislation.

b) Commitment to CEDAW

- 1.3** What additional work has been done on CEDAW since the 2004 evaluation? What are the lessons learnt?

There have been a lot of activities that have been implemented including the enactment of the domestic violence act in 2006 ; review of the national response to combating gender based violence; rolling out of victim support units to all police stations and traditional authorities; promotion of access to credit and livelihoods opportunities for women, reviews of various laws such as the Wills and Inheritance Act, drafting of the Gender Equality Statute and anti-human trafficking bills, increased access to ARTs and improved food security situation at both household and nationals levels.

- 1.4** Has the Government ratified the Additional Protocol to CEDAW?

- a. Ratified? Yes Year of ratification [_____] No

c) Commitment to Continental Level Gender Equality Protocols

1.5 Indicate actions taken to implement the following continental level policy/strategy/framework in your country:

- Year
1. *AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* [_____]
- 1.1. Frequency of reporting: Always Sometimes Never
2. *The African Women's Protocol* [_____]
- 2.1. Frequency of reporting: Always Sometimes Never

d) Commitment to Relevant Sub-regional Level Policies and strategies

1.6 State the relevant sub-regional level policy or strategy and actions taken at country level

Instrument	Action taken at country level
<i>COMESA gender policy</i>	<i>Women economic empowerment activities implementation</i>
<i>SADC implementation framework on gender and development</i>	<i>Implementing national gender programme (2004 - 2009) and the revised national response to combating gender based violence (2008); implementation of 50-50 campaign of women in politics and decision making positions; Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS programme, Orphans and other Vulnerable Children's programme</i>

e) Adoption of a National Gender Policy

1.7 Has the Government developed a national gender policy or reviewed an existing one to conform to the BPFA+10 Recommendations?

- (a) Developed Yes Year of adoption [2000] No

f) Emerging Issues for Africa

1.8 Has your Government adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting as a mechanism?

- Yes Year of adoption [2004] No

1.9 What are the lessons learnt in formulating, implementing and monitoring the National Gender Policy?

- *The policy has influenced planning and implementation of projects and formulation of macro economic policy frameworks such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy [MGDS](2006)*
- *Increased awareness on gender issues at all levels*
- *Programmes and activities are directed towards the gender equality and women empowerment*

g) Integration of Gender Equality Principles in the NDS/ PRSP

1.10 Has the Government formulated a National Development Strategy (NDS) / PRSP?

NDS: Yes Year [2006] No
 PRSP however in Malawi we have the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy [MGDS]: Yes
 Year [2006] No

If Yes, please indicate which of the following areas articulated in the NDS and budgeted for in the national programme of activities? (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

	<i>Gender Issues Articulated In the NDS/ MGDS</i>	<i>Gender Issues Budgeted for in the NDP</i>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
BPFA 12 Critical Areas of Concern		
1. Women and Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Women in the Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Education and training for women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Women and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Violence Against Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Women in Conflict Situations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Women in Power and Decision Making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Human rights of women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Women in the media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Women and the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. The Girl Child	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. HIV/AIDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emerging Issues for Africa		
13. Financing for Gender Equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Other (Specify)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.12 Please rate availability of the following statistics and data in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	2	3	4	5

Availability of gender statistics in following areas	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
Sex disaggregate data on social issues (education, health)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on economic issues (production, income, trade, employment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on Time-Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistics on GBV/Violence Against Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistics for women in decision-making positions (cabinet, parliament, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.13 How effective is the dissemination strategy of Gender Statistics in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	2	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	5

1.13.1 Does it involve use of ICT? Yes No

Please elaborate: *ICT usage in Malawi is still very low.*

PART 2: Review of the 12 Critical Areas of Concern and other Emerging Issues

Preamble: Part 2, provides a set of guiding questions that can be used to assess a country's performance against expected actions to be taken by governments as stipulated in the BPPA for 1995. All the 12 critical areas of concern are covered. Countries will also review their performance against cross cutting and emerging issues for the BPPA for Africa.

Section 1: Women and Poverty

a) Measures taken by government empower women and reduce poverty

2.1.1 Indicate actions taken by your government through review of macro policies, development of new legal framework and other socio-economic measures and strategies all aimed at empowering women and reducing their level of poverty. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Reallocation of public spending in favour of programmes and projects aimed at empowering women	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Design social protection tools (gender-sensitive safety nets in favour of women and girls)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Agricultural input subsidy programme and social cash transfers</i>	<i>Improved food security at household and national levels since 2005 Increased school attendance by learners from vulnerable groups Improved housing and income levels</i>
Provision of services (training, legal services, credit) to women to enable them to start up businesses.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There are several economic empowerment programmes and projects that are targeting women by public, private and civil society sectors.</i>	<i>- Economic Empowerment programme by Ministry of Women and Child Development which is continuing from Beijing +10 - Malawi Rural Development Fund</i>

			<p>(MARDEF) (2005) has increased access to credit by both men and women in rural areas.</p> <p>- Economic Empowerment projects by NGOs such as National Association of Business Women (NABW) and are continuing from previous reporting periods</p>
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b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.1.2 For the critical area of Concern “Women and Poverty”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. *(Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective Result Based Management mechanism	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and poverty	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality to reduce poverty	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

To effectively implement gender responsive programmes and activities, strategies have been designed by different service providers in which programmes have been formulated implemented to instil ownership, accountability and sustenance in women. The programmes are fully involving men and boys through sensitization and engaging them in some of the activities. Women are also engaged in different capacity building initiatives in order to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to assert and claim their rights. Finally, Malawi government is running an agricultural input subsidy programme in which vulnerable women are part of the beneficiaries and that has improved food security situation at household and national levels.

Section 2: Education and training for women

a) Measures taken by government for education and training of women

2.2.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure education and training of women. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Elimination of barriers that hinder boys and girls' access to education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is implementing a free primary education and has introduced bursary schemes at secondary education for both boys and girls</i>	<i>Free primary education since 1994. Re-admission Policy for teen mothers (2007) School Feeding programme (2005)</i>
Measures to increase tertiary enrolment and retention of women and girls, especially in sciences, mathematics and technology-related disciplines	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is expanding boarding space for girls; associations that are promoting science and mathematic subjects at secondary and tertiary levels; More female hostels are being built at teacher training colleges; Role modelling programmes by NGOs; Introduction of parallel programmes in the Universities of Malawi and Mzuzu and other colleges</i>	<i>Expansion of girls boarding school facilities (2005) An increased trend of girls accessing and completing tertiary education.</i>
Eliminate gender gap in basic functional literacy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>In Malawi most learners of functional</i>	

		<i>literacy are women and the government is doing sensitization meetings to encourage men to enrol in these classes.</i>	
Support and develop gender studies and research	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Primary school curricula have been reviewed in order to be gender sensitive; Gender based violence in schools; Gender based violence at the work place</i>	
Eliminate gender disparities in all areas of tertiary education by 2015	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Affirmative action to increase enrolment of women</i>	<i>40% intake at government universities of Malawi and Mzuzu More female teacher trainees at teacher training colleges and technical institutions.</i>
Measure to eliminate barriers to schooling of pregnant adolescents	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi Government is implementing a re-admission policy (2007) for teen mothers.</i>	<i>5, 070 teen mothers and fathers back in school (2007 – Feb. 2009)</i>

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.2.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Education and training of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and education	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality education and training of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to the question above, please elaborate:

The Government of Malawi, through the education sector, is implementing several policies and programmes that are aimed at increasing enrolment in schools, reducing dropout cases and absenteeism such as the re-admission policies for teen mothers, school feeding programmes and community mobilization campaigns. The government is also building more primary and secondary schools, boarding facilities for girls and intensification of teacher training at certificate and graduate levels. Use of sex disaggregated data is also used in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in addition to capacity building initiatives for both service providers and beneficiaries. In terms of food security issues, the government is implementing an agricultural input subsidy and irrigation programme which has seen food surpluses at both household and national levels.

Section 3: Women and health

a) Measures taken by government for women and health

2.3.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure quality health services for women (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Copenhagen Declaration	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The reproductive health unit has been strengthened; implementation Sector Wide Approach (SWAP); Increased training of doctors and nurses; provision of additional health infrastructures; provision of health incentives</i>	<i>Since 2005, downward trend in maternal, infant and child mortality rates; An increase in life expectancy; retention of doctors, nurses and other health personnel; improvement in health seeking behaviour</i>
Design and implement and monitor gender-sensitive health programmes, including affordable sexual and reproductive health care services and education for women and girls, and increase resources for women's health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is providing free health services to the general population; implementing the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV; Provision of youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services (SRH); couple antenatal attendance and health education campaigns; provision of free under five clinic</i>	<i>Since 2005, downward trend in maternal, infant and child mortality rates; An increase in life expectancy; improvement in health seeking behaviour</i>

		<i>and maternal services in all private hospitals and health centres.</i>	
Reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, deal with health impacts of unsafe abortions, ensure that girls have continuing access to necessary health and nutrition information and services, and address harmful traditional practices that harm women and girls' health including female genital mutilation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is implementing SRH programme and roadmap on maternal health encouraging health seeking behaviour; provision of therapeutic nutrition in all hospitals and health centres; health education campaigns; issue of traditional practices has been mainstreamed in all health programmes</i>	<i>Since 2005, downward trend in maternal, infant and child mortality rates; An increase in life expectancy; improvement in health seeking behaviour</i>
Support interventions to curb the spread of malaria, cardiovascular diseases, STIs and cancer that affect women, including provision of free and subsidized reproductive health care services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is providing free health services including implementation of Malaria and SRH programmes The country has also taken a broader approach to the treatment of STIs and HIV and AIDS by engaging all stakeholders in both private and civil society sectors such as Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) and Banja la Mtsogolo (BLM).</i>	<i>Increased awareness and health seeking behaviour; downward trend in maternal, infant and child mortality rates; An increase in life expectancy;</i>

Medical school curriculum includes gender-sensitive mandatory courses.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	University of Malawi integrated gender in its curricula including that of College of Medicine and Kamuzu College of Nursing	Graduates have knowledge of gender issues in the health sector

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.3.2 For the critical area of Concern “Women and Health”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure quality health for women. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women’s health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of support for elderly women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of support for HIV/AIDS affected girls	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

The government has put in place necessary mechanism to monitor the delivery of the various health services. In most of the health initiatives, men and boys are encouraged to take part and in some instances, there are specific activities that have deliberately targeted men and boys. Capacities building of service providers and beneficiaries are built through in-service and other specialised trainings in addition to sensitization campaigns. Issues of food security are also considered and that is why the government is promoting irrigation and farm input subsidy programmes in addition to the establishment of a nutritional and HIV/AIDS department to be looking at issues of community nutrition and the nutritional status of the population. The elderly have also be considered through the establishment of the government ministry that is looking at the issues of the elderly and people with disabilities.

Social protection issues which target the elderly and other vulnerable groups are championed by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

For the HIV/AIDS affected girls, there is free provision of ARVs and nutrition supplements regardless of gender or age. There are gender responsive Orphans and other Vulnerable Children(OVC), Social Cash Transfer and youth friendly sexual reproductive health programmes.

Section 4: HIV/AIDS and its Gender Implications

a) National Institutional and Policy Framework

2.4.1 Has the Government put in place the institutional framework to address HIV/AIDS or adopted any recent strategies or measures including changes in legislation to address HIV/AIDS concerns?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate as follows:

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Existence of an engendered national HIV/AIDS policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Engendered service delivery guidelines and standards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Availability of adequate human resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Others (please specify): | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Targeted programmes such as prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, maternal and child health, family planning, safe motherhood, and women and girls sexual reproductive health rights in the context of HIV have been implemented. There is also Women, Girls and HIV and AIDS programme which is addressing issues of women and girls.*

2.4.2 Has your government established, enforced and monitored strict legal frameworks to address the vulnerability of girls and women

Yes

No

If Yes, give details

A draft HIV and AIDS legislation has been developed and the Government of Malawi has also enacted a law to prevent domestic violence, "The Prevention of Domestic Violence act 2006". The government has also the National Nutrition policy and strategic plan and the National AIDS action framework which have targeted strategies that address the vulnerability of girls and women

b) HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Strategy

2.4.3 Has the Government adopted any recent measures and strategies including changes in legislation as part of the country's HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy?

HIV Prevention and Treatment Strategies	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Counselling and voluntary testing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is free voluntary counselling and treatment in all hospitals and other establishments by the civil society and private sector; Annual HIV Testing Week</i>	<i>Over 3.2 million people tested through 700 testing centres. Increased awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; reduction of new HIV infections</i>
Male and female condom availability and use	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is free access in all hospitals and other public places and some on sale; special campaign to increase access to female condom; male and female condom strategy is being developed</i>	<i>3 million condoms were made available and distributed (1 million for females and 2 million for males); Increased awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; reduction of new HIV infections; female condom training and distribution have increased.</i>
Targeted intervention to women and other vulnerable groups	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is a programme that is targeting orphans and other vulnerable children that provides support; There are also PMTC services</i>	<i>Reduction of HIV prevalence from 14.4% (2001) to 12 (2008)</i>
Prevention of mother to child transmission	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Prevention of mother to child treatment has been rolled out countrywide</i>	<i>554 facilities offer PMTC services; reduction of new HIV infections</i>
Provision of antiretroviral therapy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Government is offering free ART services.</i>	<i>207 440 people are on free ARV; with 56% women and 8% children; 207 facilities offering ART services</i>
Behaviour change communication	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There are several initiatives on behavioural change communication by both the government and the civil society. For example, Population Services International (PSI), all public sector institutions have HIV/AIDS at the work place Annually</i>	<i>Abstinence increased from 41% – 48% amongst the youth. Proportion of men having multiple partners reduced from 33% to 12%; approximately 6 million people have been reached by advocacy campaigns; reduction of new HIV infections</i>
Medical, psychological and social care to HIV/AIDS victims	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Intensified information education and communication (IEC) services</i>	<i>Treatment for opportunistic infections and 6 million people reached with information education and communication materials; reduction of new HIV infections</i>
Home based care	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>20, 000 support groups formed</i>	<i>Provided nutritional support to 1.2 million people; increased involvement of men and boy in care giving services.</i>
Other (please specify)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		

Section 5: Violence Against Women

a) Measures taken by government for elimination of violence against women

2.5.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Legal sanctions for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The country enacted the Prevention of domestic violence act in 2006; Has developed a strategy of combating gender based violence (2008)</i>	<i>Victims of VAW are assisted through victim support units within the framework of community policing services and rehabilitation centres by government and civil society organisations</i>
Enacted or reinforced country legislation to punish offenders and support women subjected to violence with justice and legal services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government has enacted and is also reviewing laws so that should be gender sensitive; penal code reviewed to insure stiffer sexual violence punishment for offenders.</i>	<i>Increased demand for redress services at all levels particularly at police formations, Malawi Human rights Commission, civil societies and the judiciary</i>
Mainstreamed gender perspectives in all policies and laws related to VAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The national gender machinery in conjunction with all other stakeholders is integrating and mainstreaming gender in all the policies and programmes through the implementation of the national gender programme</i>	<i>Implementation of gender responsive programmes; more women specific empowerment programmes being implemented such as the 50 – 50 campaign for women in politics and decision making positions.</i>
Women with disabilities have access to	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government</i>	<i>People with</i>

information on services for violence against women		<i>has put in place a specific ministry for people with disabilities and the elderly which deals with amongst others issues of abuse.</i>	<i>disabilities have been empowered and seek redresses in case of abuse.</i>
Provide well funded shelters and relief support for girl and women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Government and civil societies are providing psychosocial support and relief services</i>	<i>Victimised are assisted to resettle and their cases re-dressed</i>
Promote research, collect data and compile statistics on domestic violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Research in areas of gender and domestic violence is being promoted by government civil societies for informed programmes</i>	<i>Intimate partner Research (2005); School Gender Based Violence; Gender based Violence at the Workplace; Dispossession the Widow (2002)</i>
Measures aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Currently the Government of Malawi is formulating an anti-trafficking legislation and implementing programmes focusing on child trafficking</i>	<i>Human Trafficking bill (2008); increased monitoring of employment of children by the estate sector and cross boarder trafficking</i>
Encourage the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotyping including those encouraged by commercial advertising.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Through implementation of the national response to the combating of gender based violence</i>	<i>Increased reporting of all forms of violence in the media</i>

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.5.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Violence Against Women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure elimination of violence against women. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Malawi has put in place necessary legal measures such as the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006) and is also reviewing various legislations such as the Wills and Inheritance Act, Marriage Act and has also drafted Gender Equality Statute and Child Justice and the anti-human trafficking. The monitoring system and mechanism used facilitates collection of sex disaggregated data. Civil societies are implementing programmes on men and boys involvement in combating gender based violence. Capacity building initiatives for both services providers and beneficiaries have been undertaken at all levels. The UN family, the Canadian International development Agency, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the government have jointly supported VAW initiatives.

Section 6: Women and Armed Conflict

a) Measures taken by government for protection of women in armed conflict situations:

2.6.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Women's voices in conflict prevention are heard and they are meaningfully involved in peace processes, including in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of refugee projects	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi as a member of SADC, AU and UN is mandated to include women its peace missions</i>	<i>From 2008, Malawi contribution to peace includes the involvement of Ministry of Women</i>
Train women in conflict resolution, reconciliation and tolerance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi as a member of SADC, AU and UN is mandated to include women its peace missions</i>	<i>Ministry of Women will now be involved in building capacity of women through Malawi peace mission</i>
Integration of a gender perspective in the resolution of armed and other forms of conflict	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi as a member of SADC, AU and UN is mandated to include women in its peace missions</i>	<i>Involvement of Ministry of Women and Child Development in the integration of gender</i>
Investigate and punish policy, security and armed forces involved in acts of VAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Protect the safety and integrity of women refugees	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Through UNHCR, refugees in Malawi have been protected through the establishment of designated camps</i>	<i>Hosting districts have been sensitised on the rights of the refugees and vice versa</i>
Train military officials on the human rights of women and measures to assist women refugees deal with the trauma of rape and rejection	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Human rights and gender issues have been integrated in the military curricula</i>	<i>Increased awareness of human rights and gender in the military</i>
Implement provisions of UNSC Resolution 1325	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi as a member of SADC, AU and UN is mandated to include women its peace missions</i>	<i>Women and children rights are protected and upheld</i>
Implement provisions of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Human rights and gender issues have been integrated in the military curricula</i>	<i>Increased awareness of human rights and gender in the military</i>
Ratified and domesticated international	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Human rights and</i>	<i>Increased awareness</i>

Conventions and Protocols		<i>gender issues have been integrated in the military curricula</i>	<i>of human rights and gender in the military</i>
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b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.6.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women in armed conflict*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to protect women in armed conflict. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

NOT APPLICABLE

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women in armed conflict situations	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women in armed conflict	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Section 7: Women and the Economy

a) Measures taken by government for women and economy

2.7.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure full participation of women in the economy. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Adopt and enact laws that guarantee an equal access to employment opportunities and social protection benefits.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>In Malawi there is no legal segregation in terms of employment opportunities, benefits and social protection</i>	<i>Equal access to employment and benefits regardless of gender is ensured by law.</i>
Ensure equal access to capital and trade opportunities.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Through Malawi Rural development Fund (MARDEF), Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC), One Village One Product (OVOP) and other microfinance institutions, men and women have access to capital and trade opportunities equally</i>	<i>Increased production and marketing of products such as honey mushrooms and other processed products</i>
Build capacity in gender-sensitive economic analysis.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government has adopted gender budgeting and auditing initiatives</i>	<i>Gender responsive budgets in the public sector</i>
Ratified and domesticated International Conventions that guarantee the participation of women in the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>CEDAW, AU Women's protocol</i>	<i>Ratified and signed CEDAW, AU Women's protocol (2005)</i>

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.7.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and the Economy*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in the economy. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and the economy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women and the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

There are effective trade policies that have been put in place to promote trade opportunities of Malawians including women. Effective monitoring tools have been developed to track the progress and performance of women. For example, most of the beneficiaries from microfinance institutions are women including those that have benefited much from the Malawi Rural Development Fund (MARDEF). In the initiatives, which include skills capacity building in addition to business and credit management for women, both men and boys are also involved. In terms of food security issues, the government is implementing an agricultural input subsidy and irrigation programme which has seen food surpluses at both household and national levels. This has helped to improve the economic standing on both household and national levels.

Section 8: Women, governance, power and decision making

a) Measures taken by government on women governance, power and decision-making

2.8.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure meaningful participation and involvement of women in power and decision-making. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Encourage and promote stronger representation of women in political and diplomatic circles	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government in conjunction with civil society is implementing a 50-50 campaign for women in politics and decision making positions</i>	<i>14% women representation in the national assembly (2004 general elections)</i>
Encourage greater involvement of women, in particular indigenous women, in decision-making processes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government in conjunction with civil society is implementing a 50-50 campaign for women in politics and decision making positions</i>	<i>17.7% of women in decision making positions</i>
Support research to help identify adequate ways and means to politically empower women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government in conjunction with civil society is implementing a 50-50 campaign for women in politics and decision making positions.</i>	

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.8.2 For the critical area of Concern "Women in power and decision making", please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in power and decision-making. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

The National Gender Machinery has created desk for the 50 – 50 campaign for women in politics and decision making positions and is also coordinating promotion of women in various spheres of life. In addition to that, the NGOs through the NGO Gender Coordinating Network are implementing various projects targeting at the promotion of women. The government has put in place relevant policies such as the National Gender Policy (being revised) towards the promotion of women. There are also effective tools for monitoring the implementation of the women promotion initiatives which used sex disaggregated data and men and boys are also actively involved in the programmes in advancing women issues. In terms of food security issues, women are also taking a leading role at both household and national levels.

Generally, the UN family, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the government have jointly supported the initiatives.

Section 9: Human rights of women

a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women

2.9.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to protect human rights of women. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Report on schedule to the Committee on CEDAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Malawi has so far submitted its sixth CEDAW report</i>	<i>Malawi CEDAW country Report (2008)</i>
Publicise information on national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress of HR abuse	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government in conjunction with the civil society are sensitization the public on human rights abuses</i>	<i>AU Women's protocol; Beijing Declaration, CEDAW reports; National Response to combat gender based violence (2008); Malawi Constitution publicised</i>
Embody the principle of the equality of men and women in country legislation and strengthen development of programmes to protect the human rights of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government has currently drafted Gender Equality Statute in addition to the institutions that were created such as the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), the Office of Ombudsman.</i>	<i>Gender Equality Statute (drafted 2009) and submitted to parliament, Ministry of Justice and the Office of the President and Cabinet; Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) to start the process of enacting the gender equality statute.</i>
Translate to user friendly language information relating to the equal status of women including relevant protocols	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Information, education and communication materials and other documents have been translated in vernacular languages</i>	<i>CEDAW; Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2008); Malawi Constitution; CRC and people are demanding their rights</i>
Ratified and domesticated International and African Conventions and Protocols that guarantee the human rights of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>CEDAW; CRC; AU Women's protocol</i>	<i>Have informed legal frameworks, policies' justice delivery system to be gender and human rights responsive</i>

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.9.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Human rights of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to protect human rights of women in decision-making. *Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

The government has taken a stand to promote human rights of its citizens including those of women. It has therefore signed and ratified a number of international and regional protocols. In addition to that, the government established the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) to be monitoring issues of human rights abuses including those of women. In its reporting system, sex disaggregated data is used. All other interventions do involve both men and boys. Issue of food security rights are also included and that is why the governments input subsidy programme takes on board the rights of all the vulnerable groups including those of women. The government with its cooperating partners are financing human rights initiatives.

Section 10: Women in media

a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women

2.10.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure effective participation of women in media (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Measures that support research on women and media and ensure women's access to and participation in media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Gender and Media Southern Africa Network (GEMSA) advocates and promotes mainstreaming of gender in the media.</i>	<i>Since 2005, media has played an important part in the promoting women by reducing negative reporting for women</i>
Promote gender-aware media policies and gender balance in appointments at all levels of the media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>In Malawi, there is freedom of the press as such women in the media are encouraged to take up the profession.</i>	<i>Since 2005, media has played an important part in the promoting women by reducing negative reporting for women</i>
Encourage and recognise women's media networks	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>In Malawi, there is freedom of the press as such women in the media are encouraged to take up the position in profession</i>	<i>Not many women own their media houses due to capital constraints, however media houses are encouraged to attain gender equality in terms of employment opportunities within their houses</i>
Encourage the participation of women in the development of professional guidelines and codes of conduct for media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is freedom of the press as such women in the media are encouraged to contribute to the media professional guidelines and code of ethics</i>	<i>More women are now employed in the media sector since 2005</i>
Promote gender sensitive research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication and support research on women and the media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Gender and Media Southern Africa Network (GEMSA) advocates and promotes mainstreaming of gender in the media</i>	<i>All media houses are sensitized and their training curricula have incorporated gender</i>
Enforcement of provisions of the World Summit on the Information Society	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Malawi Constitution grants</i>	<i>Increased media freedom and positive</i>

		<i>for the freedom of the press and associations</i>	<i>coverage of women.</i>
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b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.10.2 For the critical area of Concern “Women in media”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to promote equal participation of women in media (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

The Malawian media has got well developed structures starting with Ministry of Information and Civic Education responsible for the media. In addition to that, there are several bodies such as the Media Council of Malawi and National Media Institute of Southern Africa (Malawi Chapter) that look at the code of ethics and media freedom. Other media houses have also developed their own gender policies in order to promote and allow gender mainstreaming within the media.

There is also an effective way of monitoring the contents of the media which should be non-discriminatory and gender sensitive by the Malawi Communication and Regulator Authority (MACRA). Both men and boys are targeted and involved in the promotion of press freedom of women and their capacity building.

The media has also been greatly involved in highlighting issues of food security, gender based violence, HIV and AIDS, harmful cultural practices, reproductive rights and other programmes targeting promotion and protection of women’s rights.

The government and its cooperating partners including the UN family are financing the initiatives.

Section 11: Women and the environment

a) Measures taken by government on women and the environment

2.11.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Measures integrating gender in the design and implementation of environmental sound resource management, especially in rural areas	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government promotes proper and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources as such it promotes natural resources and environmental policies and strategies that include and recognize the importance of gender; the government advocates for alternative sources of energy, women involvement and participation in resource management and environmental issues.</i>	<i>Malawi National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP); the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA); The National Gender Policy (revised 2008)</i>
Measures to engender MDG 7, empower women as producers and consumers to ensure effective environmental actions	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Equal and equitable participation of women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups in the sound management, conservation and utilization of natural resources and the environment for sustainable development</i>	<i>Women are involved in raising of tree nurseries</i>
Provide technical assistance to women in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, small enterprises, trade and industry	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is promoting women's participation in community afforestation, water, land management programmes; Promoting gender responsive irrigation technologies; Empowering both women and men to sustainably manage their own water points; Promoting research on gender responsive natural resource management systems; Promoting gender analysis and mainstreaming in natural resource policies and programmes; Raising public awareness on the need of involving women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable</i>	<i>Women are involved in raising of tree nurseries, organic farming, mushroom growing, bee keeping, integrated aquaculture farming</i>

		<i>groups in the management of natural resources and environment.</i>	
Evaluate policies and programmes in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government promotes Environmental Impact Assessment in all developmental projects; Promote research on gender responsive natural resource management systems; Promote gender analysis and mainstreaming in natural resource policies and programmes</i>	<i>Malawi National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP); the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA); National Gender Policy</i>

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.11.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and the environment*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to promote equal participation and benefit in the environment. *Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

The government is implementing policy frameworks that are geared to promoting a sustainable environment. It, therefore, uses sex disaggregated data in the design and implementation of the programmes. Both men and boys including women are involved in the execution of the programmes from the initial stage of project design. The capacities of both the service providers and beneficiaries including those of women are strengthened. On issues of food security, sustainable environmental management is key to increasing productivity hence gender is mainstreamed in both the environment and agriculture. In the area of funding, the government and its cooperating partners are supporting environmental management programmes.

Section 12: The girl child

a) Measures taken by government on the girl child

2.12.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Eliminate injustice and obstacles related to inheritance by girl children	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is running several programmes that promote the girl child.</i>	<i>Women Girls and HIV/AIDS programme is being implemented countrywide; Promotion of Girls Education project (PROGE); Forum for African women Educationist (Malawi Chapter) [FAWEMA] which have contributed to the enrolment of girls.</i>
Enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of VAW and ensure marriage is by young women's consent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government has put in place all necessary measures in terms of legislation and strategies to protect girls and young persons</i>	<i>Child Justice, Marriage Divorce and Family relations and anti-human trafficking bills (drafts); Labour Laws; the Prevention of the Domestic Violence Act (2006); National response to Combating Gender Based Violence (2008);rolling out of victim support units to traditional authorities</i>
Implement policies, plans and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is implementing various programmes with an aim of improving and promoting girls education in terms of enrolment, reducing</i>	<i>The re-admission policy for teen mothers; promotion of child friendly schools which have increased enrolment and retention.</i>

		<i>absenteeism and reducing dropout cases of learners including the girl child.</i>	
Ongoing research on the situation of the girls and realignment of policies and programmes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The government is conducting educational research in various areas with an aim of improving and promoting education including girls education.</i>	<i>The Malawi Institute of Education (MIE)</i>
Develop and adopt curricula, teaching materials and textbooks to improve the self image, lives and work opportunities of girls	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The primary school curricula have been engendered to allow equal opportunities for both girls and boys; Life Skills subject has been introduced in schools; There are gender sensitive training and learning materials</i>	<i>The new Primary School Curricula (Primary Curriculum and Assessment Report).</i>
Facilitate the equal provision of appropriate services and devices to girls with disabilities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There has been rehabilitation of school structures to be disability and girl child friendly; Gender sensitive training and learning materials; integrating the curriculum of special needs into the</i>	<i>Child friendly schools initiatives are promoted and gender sensitive teachers.</i>

		<i>mainstream school curricula</i>	
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2.12.2 For the critical area of Concern “*The girl child*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to promote the rights of the girl child. *Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

b) Ratification or domestication of relevant global protocols

2.12.2 Has your country ratified and domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the child?

Ratified
Yes

Domesticated
Yes

If you have responded “yes” to the question above, please elaborate:

Malawi has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is in the process of implementing it. The country has, therefore, created an enabling environment by putting in place necessary legislations and programmes such as free primary education, promotion of child friendly schools, promotion of juvenile justice system, promotion of youth friendly reproductive health services; implementation of programmes to eliminate child labour and trafficking; promotion of the immunisation of the under five children, provision of ART to children and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV; and promotion of school feeding programmes. There is an effective monitoring system which uses sex disaggregated data and advocacy activities involving both men and boys. The capacity of both the service providers and beneficiaries is built in order to enhance the understanding and implementation of the various programmes. In terms of food security issues, the government has introduced the social cash transfers and school feeding programmes which have reduced absenteeism, dropout rates and has increased enrolment. This is in addition to the agricultural input subsidy, irrigation and nutritional programmes which have increased the availability of food at both household and national levels.

Generally, these initiatives are being supported financially by the government, the UN family and other cooperating partners.

PART 3: Review on key Achievement, Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Overall, what do you view as your key achievement, challenges and lessons learnt in your efforts to implement the BPFA at country level. For each of the three items highlight 4 priority.

Key Achievement in implementing the BPFA

- 1. Gender mainstreaming has been a centre of planning and budgeting.*
- 2. Development of gender policy by government departments, civil society and the private sector.*
- 3. Combating gender based violence among women and children at all levels*
- 4. Implementation of women and girl child specific development initiatives i.e. campaigns on immunization of children, PMCT, stop child abuse and 50 – 50 promotion of women in politics and decision making.*

Key Challenges in implementing the BPFA

- 1. Reduced funding to gender equality activities.*
- 2. Slow pace of enacting relevant laws.*
- 3. Inadequate capacities to implement gender mainstreaming across sectors and at all levels*
- 4. Continued harmful cultural practices and stereotype attitudes.*

Key Lessons Learnt in Implementing the BPFA

- 1. Gender mainstreaming is a process and will take time to reach equality.*
- 2. Education of the girl child is the key to realising gender equality and women empowerment*
- 3. Involvement of men and boys is very crucial to women empowerment*
- 4. Community participation and involvement is crucial when designing policies, legal instruments and programmes.*

Final Note:

Are there any relevant issues that were not covered in the questionnaire? If yes, what are your views, comments and observations on these issues?

Generally, there no specific issues left but, the questions were very general and difficult to be answered by our stakeholders.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!